CLAIMS OF THE INVENTION

I CLAIM:

1. A method of installing a valve between an inlet and an outlet pipe comprising:

providing a valve having a housing defining a first portion of a passage through said valve, said valve including an inlet port at a first end of said passage through said valve, said inlet port fixed in position relative to said housing, said inlet port leading to said first portion of said passage through said valve, said valve further including an extendable member permanently coupled to said housing, said extendable member having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising an outlet port of said valve at a second end of said passage through said valve and said second end of said extendable member located within said housing and in communication with said first portion of said passage through said valve, said second end of said extendable member movable within said housing, said extendable member defining a second portion of said passage through said valve, said second portion of said passage defined by said extendable member between said outlet port and said first portion of said passage through said housing, said valve including a control configured to selectively open and close said passage through said valve from said inlet port to said outlet port;

connecting said inlet port of said valve to said inlet pipe;

moving said first end of said extendable member into a position in which it mates with said outlet pipe, said position of said outlet port of said valve changing relative to said housing; and

connecting said outlet port of said valve to said outlet pipe.

2. The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said moving step comprises sliding said extendable member with respect to said housing.

3. The method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said sliding is accomplished by pulling or pushing said extendable member.

4. An adjustable control valve adapted to be located between a pair of piping elements which may be of various distances apart, said valve comprising a housing defining a first portion of a passage through said valve, said valve including an inlet port at a first end of said passage through said valve, said inlet port fixed in position relative to said housing, said inlet port leading to said first portion of said passage through said valve, said valve further including an extendable member permanently coupled to said housing, said extendable member having a first end and a second end, said first end comprising an outlet port of said valve at a second end of said passage through said valve and said second end of said extendable member located within said housing and in communication with said first portion of said passage through said valve, said second end of said extendable member movable within said housing, said extendable member defining a second portion of said passage through said valve, said second portion of said passage defined by said extendable member between said outlet port and said first portion of said passage through said housing, said valve including a control configured to selectively open and close said passage through said valve from said inlet port to said outlet port.

5. The control valve in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said inlet and outlet ports are positioned at opposing ends of said valve and are generally axially aligned.

6. The control valve in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said second end of said extendable member is slidably mounted within said housing.

7. The control valve in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said second end of said extendable member is slidably mounted in a part of said first portion of said passage through said valve defined by said housing.

8. The control valve in accordance with Claim 4 including at least one seal for sealing a space between said second end of said extendable member and said housing.

9. The control valve in accordance with Claim 4 including means for limiting the movement of said second end of said extendable member with respect to said housing.

10. The control valve in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said first portion of said passage of said valve defined by said housing has a first enlarged part and said second end is located in said enlarged part of said first portion of said passage.

11. The control valve in accordance with Claim 10 wherein a first wall is defined at an interface between said first enlarged part of said first portion of said passage and a remaining portion of said passage within said housing, said interface comprising a first stop limiting the distance by which said second end of said extendable member may be extended into said housing, and including

a second stop at an opposing end of said first enlarged part, said second stop limiting the distance by which said second end of said extendable member may be extended from said housing.

12. The control valve in accordance with Claim 4 wherein said extendable member has a first portion extending from said first end to said second end having a generally uniform diameter and wherein said second end has a diameter greater than said first portion.